

## OPINION 1808

### *Mastotermes darwiniensis* Froggatt, 1897 and *Termes meridionalis* Froggatt, 1898 (currently *Amitermes meridionalis*) (Insecta, Isoptera): neotypes retained following rediscovery of syntypes

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isoptera; termites; *Mastotermes darwiniensis*; *Amitermes meridionalis*; Australia.

#### Ruling

- (1) It is hereby confirmed:
  - (a) that the neotype designated by Hill (1942) is the name-bearing type for *Mastotermes darwiniensis* Froggatt, 1897;
  - (b) that the neotype designated by Hill (1942) is the name-bearing type for *Termes meridionalis* Froggatt, 1898.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *darwiniensis* Froggatt, 1897, as published in the binomen *Mastotermes darwiniensis* and as defined by the neotype (a female alate registered as Type No. 9033 in the Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra) designated by Hill (1942), confirmed in (1)(a) above;
  - (b) *meridionalis* Froggatt, 1898, as published in the binomen *Termes meridionalis* and as defined by the neotype (a soldier registered as Type No. 9077 in the Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra) designated by Hill (1942), confirmed in (1)(b) above.

#### History of Case 2889

An application to confirm the neotypes designated by Hill (1942) as the name-bearing types of *Mastotermes darwiniensis* Froggatt, 1897 and *Termes meridionalis* Froggatt, 1898 following rediscovery of original type material was received from the late Dr J.A.L. Watson (CSIRO, Canberra, Australia) on 23 April 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 51: 14–16 (March 1994). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

#### Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1994 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 51: 16. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1995 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet (part), Cocks, Corliss, Dupuis (part), Hahn, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Štys, Willink

Negative votes — 4: Halvorsen, Holthuis, Mahnert and Thompson.

No votes were received from Cogger, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin and Uéno.

Bouchet and Dupuis voted for the retention of the neotype of *Termes meridionalis* but against the retention of that of *Mastotermes darwiniensis*. Voting against both proposals Holthuis commented: 'As the syntypes are in good condition and are the

same species as the neotypes I see no reason to recognize the latter'. Thompson commented: 'In relation to the *M. darwiniensis* neotype (para. 8 of the application), the late Dr Watson wrote that 'the designation has had a substantial audience and has major taxonomic standing'. However, not one termite specialist has commented on this case and I see no support for overturning the original author's types'.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*darwiniensis*, *Mastotermes*, Froggatt, 1897, *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*, 21: 519.

*meridionalis*, *Termes*, Froggatt, 1898, *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*, 22: 726.

The following is the reference for the designation of the neotypes of *Mastotermes darwiniensis* Froggatt, 1897 and *Termes meridionalis* Froggatt, 1898:

Hill, G.F. 1942. *Termites (Isoptera) from the Australian Region*, pp. 21 and 336 (respectively).